

Enhancement Services' Hot Sheet

July - August 2004

The Enhancement Services' Hot Sheet is a bimonthly publication that is intended to keep tribal enhancement staff abreast of current hot issues. For more information on any of these topics please contact the designated person at (360) 438-1181 and the listed extension number.

Hatchery Reform Ranking Process (Ron Olson, ext. 335):

- The FY 2005 Hatchery Reform proposal / ranking process was approved at the August Commission meeting. The proposal packet has been mailed out, and draft proposals are due November 15th. The process is similar to last year, but the proposal format has been revised. The new format was developed by a workgroup of Enhancement Biologists.

Hatchery Reform Implementation (Terry Wright, ext. 336):

- The HSRG has completed their regional technical meetings with Tribes and WDFW. Co-managers at the local level should be in the process of scheduling meetings to complete the examination of hatchery programs and reach agreement on future program goals and releases. These regional meetings should be complete by December 31, 2004. Please contact us if you need any assistance in setting up these regional meetings, or if you would like our participation in your meetings.

Puget Sound Hatchery EIS Process Update (Dietrich Schmitt, ext 339):

- The Hatchery NEPA workgroup, comprised of NWIFC, WDFW, and NOAA Fisheries staffs, is currently developing alternatives that will be examined in detail within the hatchery EIS. These alternatives are influenced by comments received during the public scoping process.
- Alternatives that have been identified to date include the production levels identified within the Resource Management Plans and production levels above and below this level.
- A survey was sent to tribal enhancement biologists and hatchery managers to assess the potential to increase production at your existing hatcheries with the current water supplies. This information will be used in examining an increased hatchery production alternative. If you have not submitted information for your programs please submit to Dietrich Schmitt as soon as possible.
- The decreased production alternative is still being debated within the NEPA workgroup. NWIFC work group members have stated concerns at examining an alternative that includes extreme production reductions including up to termination of programs. The concern is that this alternative would not fulfill the treaty trust responsibility.

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Status Of The 2004 Future Brood Document (Dietrich Schmitt ext 339):

- WDFW released the 2004 Future Brood Document on July 26th 2004.
- WDFW now provides access to the FBD on the internet. The web address to access the current FBD is http://wdfw.wa.gov/hat/reports/future_brood.htm. This website will be hyperlinked on the NWIFC website within the Enhancement Services\ Fisheries Data tab.

Enhanced CWT Reporting Options On Regional Mark Information System (RMIS) (Dietrich Schmitt ext 339):

- In July, NWIFC requested that Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission expand their reporting capabilities within RMIS .
- RMIS staff met with NWIFC staff in early August to discuss CRAS functionality and their interest in incorporating some of that functionality into the RMIS system. Their willingness to incorporate CRAS functionality is timely as the CRAS system is in need of upgrades to be compatible with new reporting formats. RMIS is a logical place to have reporting as it is the central repository for regional CWT data and has the most up-to-date information.

Fish Health Updates (Bruce Stewart, ext 338):

- We have noticed an increase in pre-spawning adult mortality in several early spawning chinook stocks this year. In most cases, the primary cause of mortality is furunculosis, a bacterial disease that causes hemorrhaging on the skin and internal organs. Notify your friendly pathologist if you notice increased loss in any of your broodstocks.
- The Tribal Fish Health program recently sent out the 2004-05 adult sampling plan summary and viral sampling instructions to all tribal hatcheries. Both documents are available in the Enhancement Service's section of the NWIFC webpage at <http://www.nwifc.org/enhance/index.asp>. The sampling plan identifies the specific tests that need to be run on each adult broodstock spawned at tribal hatcheries and the numbers of fish targeted for each assay. If you have any questions, please contact your pathologist.

Status Of Disease Policy Exemption Requests (Bruce Stewart, ext. 338):

- Quinault Tribe's request to transfer coho and steelhead fingerlings from Salmon River (Queets watershed) to Lake Quinault (Quinault watershed) was approved and the transfer completed.
- WDFW's request to transfer Elwha fall chinook eggs from Hurd Creek (Dungeness watershed) to the Solduc Hatchery (Solduc watershed) is still in the review stage. Closing date for comments is October 11, 2004. Comments should be sent to Joan Thomas at WDFW.